

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 41-52 — 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 41-52 been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2005/0177978 to Satoh ("Satoh"). Applicant traverses this rejection.

Satoh is a national stage application of PCT application no. PCT/JP03/002245, which was filed on February 27, 2003 designating the United States, and was published under PCT Article 21(2) in Japanese on September 25, 2003. Since Satoh was not published under PCT Article 21(2) in English, the reference has no 102(e) priority date. MPEP 706.02(f)(1). Therefore, Satoh is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 16-19, 21-26, 34, 35 and 40 — 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 16-19, 21-26, 34, 35 and 40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,867,961 to Choi ("Choi") in view of U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2004/0127269 to Nonaka ("Nonaka"). Applicant traverses this rejection.

Addressing claim 16, the combination of Choi and Nonaka does not disclose or suggest at least a second engagement portion having said connecting member arranged therein, wherein said connecting member is inserted into said second engagement portion, as recited in the claim. The Examiner concedes the Choi does not disclose or suggest these claimed features and relies on Nonaka to provide such disclosure. Nonaka, however, does not cure the deficiencies of Choi.

Nonaka does not disclose an engagement portion into which a connecting member is inserted, but merely discloses covers which enclose a connecting member. As disclosed in Nonaka, a cut out 50 is covered by a first tongue piece 6 that provides substantially a tube-shape when put together with a second covering structure 13, and a second tongue piece 7 that is attached to one of the outer covers 3 and 4 (paragraph [0019]). Further, Nonaka discloses that the first and second tongue pieces 6 and 7 are formed separately from the fitting portions 10 and 20 (paragraph [0020]). As can be seen, for example in Figs. 8 and 9, the fitting portions 10 and 20 of Nonaka provide hinge functions. However, the connecting member is not inserted within the fitting portions of Nonaka. Thus, Nonaka merely discloses that the connecting member is enclosed by covers 6 and 7, not that the connecting portion is inserted into an engagement portion having connecting member arranged therein.

On the other hand, Applicant's claimed second engagement portion having the connecting member inserted therein engages a bracket to provide part of the hinge function, and is not merely a cover (see Specification, page 13). The hinge includes a perpendicular opening and closing shaft which is inserted into a first engagement portion of an upper unit. The upper unit also has a second engagement portion having the connecting member arranged therein. Thus, the connecting member is inserted into the second engagement portion but not into the first engagement portion.

Accordingly, the flexible board 106, i.e., the connecting member, does not need to be wound around the perpendicular opening and closing shaft 105. Further, since the flexible board 106 does not interfere with the perpendicular opening and closing shaft 105, the diameters of the

front cover engagement portions 202 and 203 can be decreased, and therefore the diameter of the hinge can be decreased. See specification, pages 13-15 and Fig. 8.

Hence, Nonaka does not disclose or suggest an engagement portion into which a connecting member is inserted, but merely discloses that the connecting portion is covered.

In view of the above, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would not have been motivated to combine the references as attempted by the Examiner, since the combination would not result in the features claimed by Applicant.

Accordingly, claim 16 is patentable over the combination of Choi and Nonaka. Claims 17-19, 21-26, 34 and 35 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence from claims 16. Claim 40 contains features similar to the features recited in claim 16 and is therefore patentable for similar reasons.

New Claims

Applicant has added new claims 53 and 54. These claims are supported throughout the specification and drawings, for example at page 13 and Fig. 8. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. Claims 53 and 54 depend from claims 16 and 40, respectively, and are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/801,575

Attorney Docket No.: Q78525

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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